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The following communication was likewise read:—"On the Reproduction of the Toad and Frog without the intermediate stage of Tadpole." By Edward Joseph Lowe, Esq., F.G.S., F.R.A.S. Communicated by J. Lee, LL.D., F.R.S. &c. Received February 19, 1853.

The following brief remarks on the Toad (*Bufo vulgaris*) and the Frog (*Rana temporaria*) may perhaps be received with some degree of interest, as they are, I believe, contrary to the generally received notion of the procreation of these reptiles. Ray, and most naturalists, at least, consider toads and frogs as oviparous animals, yet it is apparent that they are viviparous as well, or if they do not bring forth their young alive, have the power of reproduction in a different manner to the ova and subsequent tadpole.

Mr. J. Higginbottom of Nottingham, who has paid great attention to this subject, has clearly proved the development of the tadpole to the perfect toad in situations wholly deprived of light, as I have through his kindness several times witnessed. My present remarks are intended to show that *occasionally* frogs and toads are reproduced in localities where it would be impossible for the intermediate stage of tadpole to have any existence.

First. *Toads deposit spawn in cellars and young toads are afterwards observed.*

Last summer several masses of spawn were procured from my cellar, having been found deposited amongst decaying potatoes, &c., and subsequently young toads were noticed. The cellar is free from water, and at a considerable distance from any brook.

Secondly. *Young toads are observed about hot-beds.*

In the kitchen-garden at Highfield House (which is entirely walled round) young toads have been noticed about the cucumber- and melon-beds. The gardeners have been in the habit of bringing toads to these beds to destroy the insects; these have continued amongst the warm damp straw all summer. It is after these beds have remained three or four months that the young ones have been noticed. Toads would have to travel nearly half a mile to reach this garden from the brook or lake, and also to mount a steep hill, besides taking the opportunity of coming through the door. Toads so small are not seen in any other part of the gardens.

Thirdly. *Young toads and frogs observed in abundance at the summit of another hill, whilst quite small.*

During the past summer, especially in the month of July, very many young toads and frogs were seen amongst the strawberry plants, apparently from a week to a month old. These might possibly have travelled from the brook a few hundred yards distant; yet it is strange, that with the exception of these beds, no young toads could be found elsewhere in the garden. A number of full-grown toads are mostly to be seen about these beds.

Fourthly. *Young frogs dug out of the ground in the month of January.*

In digging in the garden amongst the strawberry-beds (near where so many toads were observed last summer) in the middle of

January in the present year, a nest of about a score young frogs were upturned. These were apparently three or four weeks old. This ground had been previously dug in the month of August and many strawberry plants buried; it was amongst a mass of these plants in a state of partial decomposition that these young ones were observed.

Fifthly. *Young frogs are bred in cellars where there is no water for tadpoles.*

In mentioning this subject to Mr. Joseph Sidebotham of Manchester (an active botanist), he informed me that young frogs, and in fact frogs of all sizes, were to be seen in his cellar amongst decaying dahlia tubers. The smallest of them were only about half the ordinary size of the young frog when newly developed from the tadpole. He further stated that there was no water in the cellar, and no means of young frogs entering, except by first coming into the kitchen, a mode of entry, if not impossible, highly improbable. Mr. Sidebotham never found any spawn.

It seems probable from the above, that frogs are occasionally born alive in situations where no water can be found for the spawn to be deposited in, and that toads are either reproduced in the same manner, or from the egg directly. The latter mode seems most likely, owing to spawn having been found previously to the young toads.

Mr. Higginbottom tells me, the same remark on the birth of the Triton, without the stage of tadpole, has been mentioned to him.

These are the facts; should the subject be deemed worthy of further investigation, I shall be glad to continue observations upon these reptiles during the present year, or to make any experiments that may be deemed advisable.

March 17, 1853.

COLONEL SABINE, R.A., Treas. & V.P., in the Chair.

The Right Honourable Viscount Palmerston was balloted for and elected a Fellow of the Society.

The following papers were read:—

1. "On Animal and Vegetable Fibre as originally composed of Twin Spiral Filaments, in which every other structure has its Origin; a Note showing the confirmation by Agardh, in 1852, of observations recorded in the Philosophical Transactions for 1842." By Martin Barry, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.S.E. Received February 24, 1853.

After referring to the drawings to his paper on Fibre, published in the Philosophical Transactions for 1842, and the opinions entertained by physiologists regarding the peculiar views he advanced in that paper with reference to the original composition of organic fibre, the author states that, after the lapse of eleven years, these views have been fully confirmed, and in proof of this refers to a paper—"De cellula vegetabili fibrillis tenuissimis contexta" (Lundæ, 1852),